



JUDICIAL STANDARDS COMMISSION  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

**FORMAL ADVISORY OPINION: 2009-06**

June 12, 2009

**QUESTION:**

May a judge hold membership in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Black Political Caucus?

**COMMISSION CONCLUSION:**

The Judicial Standards Commission determined a judge may hold membership in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Black Political Caucus.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Black Political Caucus is an organization dedicated to promoting and enhancing the influence and welfare of the African American community in the areas of education, economics, political activity, and cultural, social and civic welfare.

Canon 2C of the Code of Judicial Conduct reads, “[a] judge should not hold membership in any organization that practices unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion or national origin.” There is no indication that the Caucus practices “unlawful discrimination”, by arbitrarily excluding from membership, on the basis of race, religion, sex, or national origin those individuals who would otherwise be admitted to membership. Thus, on the understanding that the inquiry was directed solely to the practice of limiting membership to “African Americans of Black descent”, the Commission did not perceive an ethical impediment to membership.

Reference:

North Carolina Code of Judicial Conduct  
Canon 2C